



Orange County District Attorney

Press Release

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Marriott Pays \$200,000 to Settle Environmental Complaint

SANTA ANA – The Marriott family of corporations has agreed to pay \$200,000 to settle a civil complaint filed by the district attorney's Environmental Protection Unit for improperly operating six underground storage tanks containing diesel fuel.

The complaint named as defendants Marriott Hotel Services, Inc. ("MHSI"); Marriott Distribution Services, Inc. ("MDS"); Host Marriott, L.P., UKA, LLC; HMC Suites Limited Partnership; and CIGNA Hotel Associates-I Limited Partnership.

Investigations conducted by the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) and the district attorney uncovered a pattern of non-compliance with the laws and regulations governing the operation of underground storage tanks. Specific violations included: inoperative or disconnected monitoring equipment; failure to conduct both required testing of the leak detection and monitoring equipment and integrity tests of the tank and pipeline systems; operating without valid permits; failure to develop and submit for approval monitoring and response plans; failure to maintain required evidence of financial responsibility for the tanks; and the failure to submit required paperwork and to keep required records. In addition, Marriott had a repeated history of failing to correct violations uncovered by regular inspections performed by the OCHCA.

No known environmental contamination exists as a result of any of the defendant's conduct. The defendants have cooperated with the investigation and have worked with OCHCA to bring each of the following six properties into compliance with the law: Anaheim Marriott Hotel, 700 West Convention Way, Anaheim; Costa Mesa Marriott Suites Hotel, 500 Anton Blvd., Costa Mesa; Irvine Marriott Hotel, 18000 Von Karman Ave., Irvine; Newport Beach Marriott Hotel and Tennis Club, 900 Newport Center Dr., Newport Beach; Newport Beach Marriott Suites Hotel, 500 Bayview Circle, Newport Beach; and Marriott Distribution Services, 10681 Calle Lee, Los Alamitos.

Without admitting wrongdoing or liability and in order to settle the lawsuit, Marriott agreed to pay \$180,000 in civil penalties plus \$20,000 in cost reimbursement to OCHCA. Each of the property owner defendants agreed to pay \$3,000 in civil penalties for each property for their failure to ensure compliance with the law by the tank operator, Marriott, and their failures to submit and maintain required paperwork. All defendants also agreed to be bound by a

permanent injunction requiring compliance with California laws governing underground storage tanks.

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